

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 16-24 are presently active, Claims 1-15 are canceled without prejudice, Claims 16-24 are added. No new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-3, 6-10 and 13-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ream (U.S. Patent 6,363,228) in view of Kato (JP 11-24498) and Kowari (JP 2001-318573).

Regarding the rejection of Claims 1-3, 6-10 and 13-15, the grounds for rejection are moot since Claims 1-3, 6-10 and 13-15 are canceled. Instead, new Claims 16-24 are added. Applicant respectfully submits that new independent Claim 16 patentably distinguishes over the applied references as discussed below.

New Claim 16 recites, *inter alia*, “a controller configured to read the unique correction data stored in a first memory contained in a transfer belt unit connected to a main body of the image forming apparatus, and *transfer the unique correction data from the first memory to a second memory contained in the main body of the image forming apparatus*” and “a correction control unit configured to correct the color difference and position difference based on the unique correction data *stored in the second memory.*”

Ream describes that the data that reflects the measured and characterized transfer belt subassembly 15 is stored in a storage device 80, which is part of the belt subassembly (Ream at column 4, lines 8-10). However, Ream does not disclose that a controller read and transfer the data stored in the storage device 80 to a memory contained in the main body of the image forming apparatus. Further, Ream does not disclose that a correction control unit corrects the color difference and position difference based on the data stored in the memory contained in the main body of the image forming apparatus.

Thus, Ream fails to teach or suggest “a controller configured to read the unique correction data stored in a first memory contained in a transfer belt unit connected to a main body of the image forming apparatus, and *transfer the unique correction data from the first memory to a second memory contained in the main body of the image forming apparatus*” and “a correction control unit configured to correct the color difference and position difference based on the unique correction data *stored in the second memory*,” as recited in new Claim 16.

Turning now to Kowari, Kowari describes that a *cartridge* has memories for storing relevant data/parameters *regarding the cartridge*, i.e., a laser processing ROM 51, a data memory 52, a buffer memory for the data memory 51, an application register 54, a buffer memory for the application register 54 and a status memory 56 (Kowari at column 8, lines 22-25). However, Kowari does not disclose that the *transfer belt unit* (7) has a memory.

Thus, Kowari fails to teach or suggest “a controller configured to read the unique correction data stored in a first memory contained in a transfer belt unit connected to a main body of the image forming apparatus, and transfer the unique correction data from the first memory to a second memory contained in the main body of the image forming apparatus” and “a correction control unit configured to correct the color difference and position difference based on the unique correction data stored in the second memory,” as recited in new Claim 16.

Likewise, Kato fails to teach or suggest “a controller configured to read the unique correction data stored in a first memory contained in a transfer belt unit connected to a main body of the image forming apparatus, and transfer the unique correction data from the first memory to a second memory contained in the main body of the image forming apparatus” and “a correction control unit configured to correct the color difference and position

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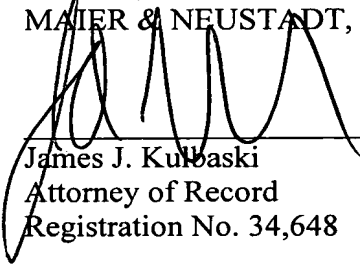
difference based on the unique correction data stored in the second memory,” as recited in new Claim 16.

Accordingly, new independent Claim 16 patentably distinguishes over Ream, Kato and Kowari. Therefore, Claim 16 and the pending Claims 17-24 dependent from Claim 16 are believed to be allowable.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussions, it is believed that the outstanding rejection has been overcome, and the application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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